

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USINFO 0 102013Z FEB 75 SENT STATE OPS  
CENTER INFO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM 10 FEBRUARY.

QUOTE

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STATE OPS CENTER FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO DAVID GOMPERT  
FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP-I (TAKE ONE OF THREE)

FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION AS OF NOON  
EST FEBRUARY 10, PREPARED BY USIA:

SUMMARY: ISRAELI EDITORIALS SPECULATED ON WHAT THE SCENARIO  
FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ON EGYPT'S  
UNWILLINGNESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. ARAB MEDIA REITERATED AN  
UNCOMPROMISING POSITION. WIDE RANGING WEST EUROPEAN COMMENT  
CENTERED UPON THE U.S. DOMESTIC DEBATE AND ITS  
IMPLICATIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY AND THIS TRIP. END SUMMARY.

TEL AVIV: A BYLINER WROTE TODAY IN INDEPENDENT HAARETZ:

"DR. KISSINGER IS CERTAINLY AWARE THAT HE HAS ASSUMED AN  
IMPOSSIBLE MISSION THIS TIME...FOR THE GAP SEPARATING THE ISRAELI  
AND EGYPTIAN POSITIONS IS MORE IDEOLOGICAL THAN GEOGRAPHICAL...

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"OPTIMISTS BELIEVE THAT SADA IS SINCERELY INTERESTED IN A

STATE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY AND THAT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY... PESSIMISTS BELIEVE THAT SADAT'S PEACE OVERTURES ARE NOTHING BUT A BIG BLUFF...KISSINGER WILL HAVE TO PROVE THAT EGYPT'S INTENTIONS ARE HONEST AND NOT DECEITFUL..."

THE PRO-GOVERNMENT JERUSALEM POST CARRIED AN ARTICLE CO-AUTHORED BY TWO BYLINERS ASSERTING:"ISRAEL INTEND TO PRESENT A HARD GARGAINING LINE WHEN ITS TOP-LEVEL NEGOTIATING TEAM MEETS KISSINGER IN JERUSALEM... HIGH ISRAELI SOURCES PREDICTED LAST NIGHT THAT THE TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY TONIGHT AND TOMORROW...WOULD NOT YET MOVE INTO THE SPECIFICS OF ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS...."

A COLUMNIST IN INDEPENDENT YEDIOT AHARONOT WROTE THAT "KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP METHOD TIES ISRAEL TO U.S. POLICY. THE U.S. SEEKS TO WEAKEN SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE MEAST BUT NO PEACE IS POSSIBLE IN THE AREA WITHOUT SOVIET CONSENT..."

INDEPENDENT MAARIV SAID THAT "KISSINGER'S TALKS IN JERUSALEM WILL AIM FOR THE MOST PART AT FINDING OUT WHAT MINIMUM DEMANDS ISRAEL MAKES OF EGYPT IN EXCHANGE FOR AN IDF WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI..." IN AN EDITORIAL TODAY THE PAPER DISCUSSED THE "NEW U.S. APPROACH TOWARD GENEVA." IT SAID: "IF KISSINGER IS NO LONGER OPPOSED TO GENEVA, ISRAEL SHOULD NOT FEAR A RETURN TO GENEVA" BUT "ISRAEL, LIKE KISSINGER, BELIEVES...THAN AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN ARRANGEMENT SHOULD PRECEDE GENEVA. EGYPT CONCURS ON THIS POINT."1-33

CAIRO TODAY'S SEMIOFFICIAL AL-AHRAM STRONGLY DENIED THAT THERE WOULD BE EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FORM THE SINAI AND GOLAN SENSATIONAL AL-AKHBAR TERMED THE KISSINGER MIDDLE EAST TRIP "DECISIVE BECAUSE IT WILL CLEARLY TEST ISRAEL'S PEACE INTENTIONS...AND U.S. READNINESS TO PRESSURE ISRAEL WHICH DEPENDS ON THE U.S. FOR EVERYTHING."

CAIRO RADIO'S VOICE OF THE ARABS STATED SUNDAY THAT THE CURRENT KISSINGER TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY OBSERVERS "AS THE LAST CHANCE IN HIS EFFORTS AND DIPLOMACY BECAUSE IT TAKES PLACE AT A VERY CRITICAL STAGE: THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS HAS REACHED A POINT THAT CANNOT TOLERATE ANY NEW ISRAELI MANEUVERS OR PROCRASTINATION...EITHER ISRAEL AGREES TO A WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS--SINAI, THE GOLAN AND THE WEST BANK-- AND DECLARES ITS FRANK APPROVAL OF GOING TO GENEVA AND ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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READINESS TO ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242... OR IT BEGINS A NEW STAGE OF MANEUVERS AIMED AT BARGAINING AND AVOIDING THE JOURNEY TO GENEVA. IN THIS LATTER CASE, IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WILL RAPIDLY MOVE TOWARD AN EXPLOSION AND THE LAST CHANCE FOR ACHIEVING PEACE IN THE AREA WILL BE LOST."

CAIRO RADIO YESTERDAY CITED SENSATIONAL AL-AKHBAR AS " "COMMENTING ON THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT STATEMENT

THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS READY TO RETURN THE SINAI PASSES AND ABU RUDAIS OIL FIELDS TO EGYPT PROVIDED EGYPT GUARANTEES IT WILL NOT GO TO WAR REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS WITH JORDAN, SYRIA OR ANYBODY ELSE." THE PAPER WENT ON TO CONTENDED THAT "RABIN'S STATEMENT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT ISRAEL'S LEADERS ARE STILL INTOXICATED WITH THE FOLLY OF FORCE AND THEY STILL IMAGINE THEY CAN CONTROL THE DESTINY OF THE STATES OF THE REGION AND IMPOSE WHATEVER POLICY THEY WANT ON THESE STATES."

CAIRO MENA CITED PRO-U.A.R. AL-ANWAR OF BEIRUT YESTERDAY AS QUOTING EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI WHO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "EGYPT IS PREPARED TO ATTEND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE" AND THAT "CLAIMS THAT EGYPT DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS CONFERENCE ARE UNFOUNDED." FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI ALSO ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT "RECENT EXCHANGES OF MESSAGES BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV HAVE STABILIZED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

BEIRUT INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR OF BEIRUT'S CHIEF EDITOR, MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, WROTE IN A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL TODAY: "THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE NOW HAS NEED OF THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM IN HIS OWN COUNTRY..UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO ASSUME THAT DR. KISSINGER'S TOUR WILL BE TRANSFORMED FROM AN 'EXPLORATORY' INTO A DECISIVE TRIP...THE ISRAELIS MAY EXPLOIT THE U.S. NEED OF A SOLUTION... BY INSISTING ON CONFINING THE DISCUSSION TO PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI, NOTHING MORE... IF THIS OCCURS AND DR. KISSINGER GOES ALONG WITH IT, IT WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR THE STEP-BY-STEP POLICY.."

LEFTIST AL-MUHARRIR DECLARED THAT THE U.S. POSITION "LARGELY CONFORMS TO THE ISRAELIS'..WHICH MEANS THAT IT WANTS FULL PEACE WITHOUT FULL WITHDRWAL...WHATEVER HAPPENS" AS A RESULT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MEDIATION "WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF ALL THE ARAB STATES...AND OF THE PALESTINIANS" WITH WHOSE LEADERS "BOTH THE AMERICANS AND ISRAELIS REFUSE TO DEAL."

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PRO-LIBYAN AS-SAFIR ASSERTED TODAY: "KISSINGER COMES TO THE MIDDLE EAST THIS TIME ARMED WITH EUROPEAN-AMERICAN OIL SOLIDARITY..HE AIMS...FIRST, TO REMOVE THE OIL WEAPON AND THE ARAB THREAT OF OIL EMBARGO FROM DISCUSSIONS OVER THE SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND, SECOND, TO WIELD THE WEAPON OF U.S.-EUROPEAN OIL SOLIDARITY TO BRING PRESSURE UPON THE ARAB STATES AND THE OTHER OPEC STATES MEETING AT THE END OF THE MONTH..."

AMMAN: GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AR-RAI TODAY DISCUSSED THE "UNIQUE ROLE" PLAYED BY THE U.S. "IN THIS AREA OF THE WORLD WHICH IS SEETHING WITH LOVE, HATRED, FEAR, SPECUALTION, AND APPRECIATION FOR THE U.S. NEVER BEFORE IN HISTORY HAS A MAJOR POWER PLAYED SUCH A CONFLICTING ROLE." THE PAPER ASSERTED THAT ALTHOUGH ARABS HAVE EVERY REASON TO OBJECT TO U.S. POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THEY ACTUALLY ENCOURAGE

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ROLE "SINCE A TRUE MEDIATOR IS INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF ALL PARTIES." IT ADDED THAT THE ISRAELIS, "WHO SHOULD BASK IN AMERICA'S FRIENDSHIP, ARE AWAITING KISSINGER WITH THE FEAR THAT ARAB OIL MIGHT BE MORE INFLUENTIAL THAN THE JEWISH VOTES OF NEW YORK."

AL-SABAH CONTENDED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER "WOULD FAIL IF HIS STEP-STEP-STEP POLICY AIMS AT KEEPING EGYPT OUT OF THE BATTLE RATHER THAN PREVENTING ISRAEL FROM PURSUING ITS POLICY OF AGGRESSION. DURING THIS CURRENT TOUR, KISSINGER WILL FIND THE ARABS DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE A TOTAL PEACE SETTLEMENT.. THIS MEANS THAT ISRAEL MUST ABANDON ITS (HOUSING) SETTLEMENT PROJECTS." IN A SEPARATE EDITORIAL THE PAPER SAID, "WE ARE SURE THAT ON THIS TOUR MR. KISSINGER WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE STEP-BY-STEP POLICY IS USELESS AND THAT THERE IS NO OTHER WAY BUT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE."

JIDDA: AL-BILAD SAID THAT THE "U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE THREW A BUCKET OF COLD WATER PRIOR TO HIS MIDDLE EAST TOUR, IN ORDER TO COOL DOWN THE FRENZIED PRESS SPECULATIONS WHICH LED READERS TO THINK THAT PEACE WAS IN THE OFFING. THIS BUCKET OF COLD WATER WAS KISSINGER'S STATEMENT THAT HIS CURRENT TOUR WAS MERELY AN EXPLORATORY ONE." THE PAPER CONTENDED, HOWEVER, THAT MR. KISSINGER WAS GOING THE MIDDLE EAST THIS TIME "WITH SOMETHING IN HIS POCKET THAT WILL LEAD TO THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE."  
(END TAKE ONE) UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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